

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 9, 13, 15-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Ballard, U.S. Patent No. 6,078,960 (Ballard). Claims 6 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ballard in view of Fujimoto, JP0200117932A (Fujimoto). Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ballard in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,473,791 issued to Al-Ghosein (Al-Ghosein). Lastly, Claims 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ballard in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,188,888 issued to Bartle (Bartle). In light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination.

Each of the independent claims has been amended to recite limitations that are not taught or fairly suggested in the sections of the references cited in the Office Action. For example, each of the independent claims now recites "a plurality of server devices for providing a plurality of services, respectively... wherein the plurality of services are distinct from each other," or "first and second services provided by first and second service, respectively... wherein the first and second services are distinct from each other." It is noted that in the prior Office Action dated October 4, 2006, the Examiner admits that Ballard, the primary reference, does not exclusively teach "wherein a first device of the plurality of server devices provides first and second services that are distinct from each other... ." Ballard describes load balancing requests for access to data , where the same data is available on several servers. See e.g., Ballard, column 6, lines 3-18. Applicants note the prior Office Action dated October 4, 2006, cites to sections of U.S. Patent No. 6,058,425 issued to White (White) as teaching a server device that provides first and second service "that are distinct from each other... ." Applicants reserve the right to contest the assertion that White teaches a server device providing first and second services that are distinct

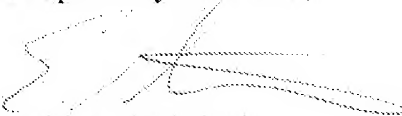
from each other. Further, Applicants reserve the right to contest the combinability of White with Ballard that is set forth in the Office Action dated October 4, 2006. Notwithstanding, Applicants assert that sections of White cited in the previous Office Action do not teach or fairly suggest first and second services that are distinct from each other and which are implemented on first and second servers, *respectively*. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the independent claims, as amended, are patentably distinguishable over the cited sections of Ballard and/or White. Since the pending independent claims have been shown to be patentably distinguishable, it follows that the remaining claims are patentably distinguishable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. Applicant also hereby authorizes that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to Deposit Account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,



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